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Can Space Technologies Aid Social Justice?

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1. Space technologies are increasingly being used in international aid space projects for sustainable development, e.g. satellites and drones to prevent malaria epidemics in the Global South.

2. Social justice means equal control over resources, particularly for groups whose needs have historically been marginalised. Social justice is vital if we want to live in a fairer world.

3. Research Aim: To evaluate whether the design of **space projects** funded by UK aid budgets could support **social justice** for marginalised groups.

4. Initial findings from documents and interviews with project members reveal challenges and opportunities to **space projects** aiding **social justice**:

4.1 Challenges

- a. The requirements of those funding **space projects** could misalign with beneficiaries needs. As a result, the design of **space projects** may not meet beneficiaries' needs.
- b. The UK government has abruptly cut aid budgets for **space projects**, showing how they have the power to change beneficiaries' lives negatively and resources available at a whim.

4.2 Opportunities

- c. **Space projects** could prioritise using **space technologies** in ways that are accessible and useful to beneficiaries.
- d. Effective communications between project members and beneficiaries can assist with understanding accessibility and usefulness.
- e. Finding alternative funding sources could reduce the impact of budget cuts.

5. Implications: This research will provide insights into how **space projects** can be designed to bring greater equality and beneficial outcomes for marginalised groups.

6. Conclusion: Initial results suggest **space projects** can't currently aid **social justice** due to government budget cuts increasing inequalities. Finding alternative funding and focusing on using **space technologies** to meet the needs of marginalised groups could help support **social justice**.

